GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:172
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2005
ILLITERACY RATE
Gehlot Shri Thaawar Chand;Malhotra Prof. Vijay Kumar

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that about 40 crore people in the country are illiterate;

(b) if so, whether the Government is likely to make all the people literate in 15 years to make the country a "developed nation" by 2020;

(c) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to achieve the target;

(d) the number of illiterate persons in the country as on date, State-wise;

(e) the extent to which the 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' has remained successful; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to make 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' a complete success?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 172 TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.3.2005 ASKED BY SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT AND PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA, MPs REGARDING ILLITERACY RATE

(a): As per Census 2001, there were 30.41 crore non- literates in 7+ age-group in the country.

(b) & (c): The Universalisation of Elementary Education and eradication of adult illiteracy form the two-pronged strategy for improving the literacy rate of the country. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a comprehensive programme for universalizing quality Elementary Education. The goals of SSA are :

- All children in School, Education Guarantee Centre, Alternate School, 'Back-to-School' camp by 2003.
- All children complete five years of primary schooling by 2007.
- All children complete eight years of elementary schooling by 2010.
- Focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life.
- Bridge all gender and social category gaps at primary stage by 2007and at elementary education level by 2010.
- Universal retention by 2010.

The National Literacy Mission (NLM) is also entrusted with the task of eradication of adult illiteracy in the country. The target of NLM is to achieve a sustainable 75% literacy rate by 2007. The thrust areas of NLM are improving female literacy in low female literacy areas,

organizing projects for residual illiteracy in districts which have substantial number of illiterates, setting up of continuing education centres for providing opportunities for life-long learning to the neo-literates and imparting vocational training to neo-literates through Jan Shikshan Sansthans.

(d): The State-wise number of non-literates in 7+ age-group, as per Census 2001, is enclosed as Annexure.

(e) & (f): The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan was launched in the year 2001-02 and covers all the States and Union Territories except Goa so far. The programme targets all children in the age group of 6-14. The Goals of SSA are being implemented in a mission mode in partnership with the State Governments and UT administrations.

Annexure

Statement indicating the number of illiterate persons (7+) in the country as per Census 2001, State-wise,

Sl. No.	State	Illiterate persons
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26,103,827
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	407,312
3.	Assam	8,142,099
4.	Bihar	35,082,869
5.	Chhattisgarh	6,105,738
6.	Delhi	2,168,894
7	Goa	216,138
8.	Gujarat	13,310,863
9.	Haryana	5,715,350
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1,243,142
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	3,850,611
12.	Jharkhand	10,211,801
13.	Karnataka	15,233,500
14.	Kerala	2,562,540
15.	Madhya Pradesh	17,973,246
16.	Maharashtra	19,241,558
17.	Manipur	547,669
18.	Meghalaya	692,968
19.	Mizoram	83,394
20.	Nagaland	568,035
21.	Orissa	11,608,795
22.	Punjab	6,430,200
23.	Rajasthan	18,154,176
24.	Sikkim	144,321
25.	Tamil Nadu	14,645,974
26.	Tripura	740,658
27.	Uttaranchal	2,023,535
28.	Uttar Pradesh	58,854,009
29.	West Bengal	21,565,574
30.	A & N Islands	58,236
31.	Chandigarh	141,777
32.	D & N Haveli	76,387
33.	Daman & Diu	30,026
34.	Lakshadweep	6,876
35.	Pondicherry	160,819
Total:		304,102,917